

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY EB/NLPAZDRAL

APPROVED BY EB/JLKATZ, ACTING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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PLEASE PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SAIGON, SINGAPORE
FROM HONG KONG 10 APR.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 3835

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT VN SN

SUBJ: INDOCHINA PL 480 COMMODITIES

REF: STATE 080786

1. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WASHINGTON'S DECISIONS
REGARDING USG SHIPMENTS TO SAIGON ARE BEING MADE ON MISTAKEN
PREMISE THAT IT IS THE SECURITY SITUATION WHICH MAKES US
OCEAN CARRIERS RELUCTANT TO ENTER SAIGON FOR OFF LOADING.
OUR CONVERSATIONS OF LAST FEW DAYS WITH CARRIER REPRESENTATIVES
HERE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEIR RELUCTANCE TO SHIP TO SAIGON
IS NOT BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY SITUATION, BUT BECAUSE OF THE
VERY HIGH WAR RISK INSURANCE PREMIUMS RECENTLY ESTABLISHED.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT IS NOT THE CARRIERS BUT THE UNDERWRITERS
WHO HAVE A NEGATIVE VIEW ON THE SAIGON SECURITY SITUATION.
FURTHERMORE, ALL OWNERS ARE NOT FLATLY REFUSING TO ENTER
VIETNAMESE WATERS. WATERMAN, AT LEAST, INTENDS TO ADHERE
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TO ITS VIETNAM SCHEDULES.

2. WE, OF COURSE, ARE NOT INFORMED ON SAIGON'S STOCK-
PILE SITUATION AND WHICH CARGOES, AMONG THOSE HEADED
FOR SAIGON, ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. HOWEVER, CRITICAL
CARGOES WOULD PROBABLY STILL GO FORWARD IF THE USG WERE
WILLING TO SUBSIDIZE THE XTRAORDINARY WAR RISK INSURANCE
PREMIUMS WHICH APPLY ONCE A VESSEL APPROACHES WITHIN ONE
HUNDRED MILES OF SAIGON. DIVERSION OF OTHER CARGOES,
TOGETHER WITH UNLOADING , STORAGE, AND TRANSSHIPMENT COULD
MAKE THE HANDLING OF THESE CARGOES EVEN MORE EXPENSIVE TO
THE USG IN THE LONG RUN THAN AN INSURANCE PREMIUM SUBSIDY
WHICH RESULTS IN DIRECT DELIVERY OF CARGOES TO SAIGON.
CROSS
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, COMMODITIES, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, WATERWAY ACCESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE082950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NLP AZDRAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750127-0452
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750457/aaaacayr.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 080786
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDOCHINA PL 480 COMMODITIES
TAGS: EWWT, VN, SN
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006